

McNairy County Independent.

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We have given space this week and last to the high school question. We want to say that McNairy county cannot support and does not need but one high school. But few counties in the State have more than one. All agree that we need a high school. Then if we need one, must we fail because two or more are demanded? When the county seat was moved to Selmer, the big proposition was to have a town in the county that would be of importance and one the people needed. It was an open field to all. We regret to say that small towns did not see fit to unite and have a good town. Selmer, with all its rivals, has become a place admired by every visitor. She is, and always will be, the county seat and the most important town in the county. All high schools, without exception, in the State are at the county seat. It takes money to legally run a high school under the State laws and to entitle it to the State fund. The last schools were not high schools, and what they got from the State was a gratuity. It is simply one high school or none. It is up to the people through the county court to say whether or no.

Sunday School Convention.

The third quarterly Sunday School Convention of the Fourth District of United Baptist Association, will convene the First Sunday in July, which is July 4th, at Gravel Hill, McNairy county, Tenn.

All churches composing this district will please send delegates and reports.

G. M. GOOCH,
Association Supt.

Teachers' Institute.

The McNairy County Teachers' Institute will be conducted in the high school building at Selmer, beginning on Monday, July 12, and closing with the State examination, July 15 and 16.

We are expecting every teacher of the county to be in regular attendance. The teachers are called upon to help make this a great and profitable institute. The State Department of Education will have a representative with us.

Don't forget that the school law requires Institute attendance. Come prepared to take an active part in the discussions.

The State examinations will begin promptly at 8:00 o'clock Thursday morning, July 15th.

Remember, we will have a strong Institute faculty.

Respectfully,
A. B. GRANTHAM,
County Superintendent.

Land Transfers

E. C. McDaniel to O. C. Hagy, 62 acres, \$900.

H. Abernathy and wife to F. & A. M. Lodge 338, and Green Bay Camp 209 W. O. W., hall at Adamsville, \$300.

Ben Leonard and wife to Clem Lea, 192 acres, \$275.

Ira P. Perkins to Clem Lea, 25 acres, \$25.

J. R. Blankenship to J. E. Blankenship, 70 acres, \$250.

C. L. Haynes to R. M. Kendrick, lot and residence in Selmer, \$1800.

W. O. Whitten to G. F. Whitten, 56 acres, \$63.

J. P. Whitten and wife to G. F. Whitten, one acre, \$15.

Refus Meeks and wife to B. B. Hooker, one-fifth interest in 11 acres, \$50.00.

W. H. Dodd and wife to C. L. Sharp, 4 acres, \$800.

E. A. Ramer to T. A. Ledbetter, three-fourths acre, \$25.

Stramoline

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The County High School and Teacher-Training.

In his last report Commissioner of Education Dr. P. P. Claxton said:

"The most important phase in public education in the United States at present is the secondary school. The high school is, or should be, the center of our school system."

The obligation of the high school is three-fold. Touching the elementary school below, leading to the college above, and fitting for life the mass of citizenship that find here the last chance, the high school stands as the guarding of more vital interests than any other educational factor.

The high school must train a large number of teachers. They cannot at present be trained elsewhere. The last United States report says: "There is not a State in the Union which has Normal schools enough to meet the demand for new teachers. It is natural, therefore, that the State Department of Education should look to the high schools for co-operation in teacher training."

The report also shows that in the United States as a whole only 32.7 per cent. of the rural teachers have any professional training at all, in the South less than 20 per cent. and in Tennessee less than 16 per cent. The per cent. of teachers in McNairy county who have had professional training is almost negligible. In Tennessee 2,200 new teachers enter the service every year. Our Universities and Normal schools do not graduate this number, and those they do graduate do not go back to the rural schools to teach. Where, then, must the rural teacher be trained? In the high school. Fifteen states have embodied this plan in the laws of the school system, and require that the high schools give teacher training. Last year twenty high schools in Tennessee gave such courses, and this year the number will be greatly increased. The leading experts and best educational conferences sanction teacher training in the high school. The National Educational Association declares, "The most available agencies for training teachers for the rural schools are our public high schools."

But some may say: "Are the high school teachers capable of training the teachers for the rural schools?" In every first-class high school in Tennessee there is at least one teacher who will compare favorably with any teacher of the Normal schools. The high school principals of Tennessee are graduates of Peabody, Vanderbilt, Tennessee, Sewanee, and other standard colleges, and can well look after the training of the rural teachers.

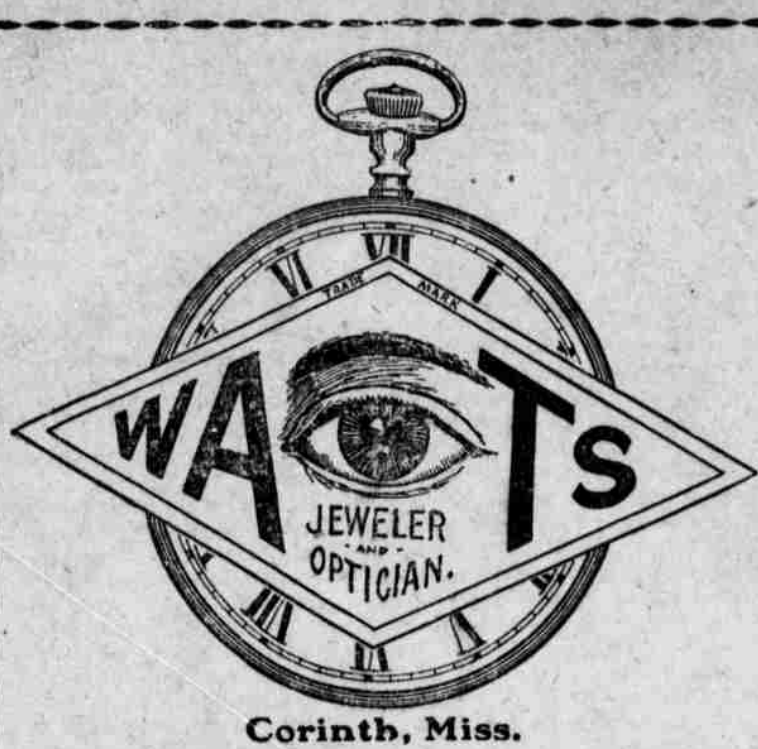
We have shown that the high school can train the rural teacher, so let us come to local conditions. First: "Does the standard of the rural teacher in McNairy county need raising? Do we need better prepared and more efficient teachers in this county? We most surely do, and no one will dispute this fact.

Second: How can we best secure better trained rural teachers? By means of a good, strong county high school, which gives a strong teacher-training course. Such a school would be free to all the teachers of the county and the course of study could be made to meet local conditions and would greatly raise the standard of the rural teacher in this county.

Last year over 50 per cent. of our teachers failed on the examination. The number who received certificates was not as great as the number of positions to be filled, hence many were given temporary certificates and allowed to teach when they were not qualified. We should not blame the teachers too much. Perhaps they never had the opportunity to do any better.

We have shown that the high school is a very desirable place to train the rural teacher, that the Normal schools cannot meet the demand, that educational authorities say the high school should assist in training the rural teacher, and that the need of better trained teachers for this county is urgent. Should not this county make some effort to provide a school where its rural teachers may prepare themselves for the important work they are to do.

Now is the time to build. As soon as the war is over material will go up. Selmer Lumber Co.



County High Schools from Another Viewpoint.

In the issue of June 11, 1915, the Independent had an article of much interest to the people of McNairy county on the benefits of county high schools. We feel sure that the people have read this article with much interest and that much good will come of it. However, we desire to say that there is another view point from which to look at the question raised in the article referred to, and we shall ask the Editor for a little space in which to give our side of this important question.

No one who has studied this matter with the best interests of our boys and girls at heart, will for a moment say that the high school is not needed. All thinking men and women have long since arrived at the conclusion that education is absolutely necessary to the advancement of our country, our homes, our nation.

We agree with the first part of the article mentioned, and let it be said that we are not trying to grasp any thing that belongs to any other part of the county, but our entire aim is to try to lay before the minds of our people the importance of giving the greatest service to the greatest number of people at the least possible expense.

What we consider as the greatest hindrance to progress from an educational standpoint is the unsatisfied greed of a few politicians who have fed off the earnings of the people for quite awhile and who continue, in our opinion, a public menace to the welfare of the county as a whole. No real progress can ever be made until our people take an interest in the administration of their own affairs and stop leaving it to certain characters who are seeking only their own welfare at public expense.

The writer of the article referred to above dwelt at some length on what he termed "local prejudices."



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from, who could not have attended a centrally located school at all.

There are boys and girls in our county whose parents are not financially able to send them away from home to school, and shall we deny the benefits of a high school education to these children simply because they are not able to reach the one high school in the county for which their parents are taxed to maintain? Our school has already served some pupils of this class, and we are sure that they appreciate fully the advantages that have come to them from the wise decision of our county court in establishing a high school here in their midst.

Then again we should like to call your attention to the cost of our school as compared with one other such school. We received from the county the sum of \$500 and from the State \$220, making a total of \$720. We taught an average of 26 high school pupils. Based on a report in the Commercial Appeal, sent in from Selmer, we notice that for high-school purposes our people paid last year something over \$4,400.00. Of this amount the three schools outside of our county seat received \$1500, which leaves \$2,900 for the other one school. With the other moneys obtained from the county and State, and also from the city board at Selmer, the amount will approximate \$4,000 used in that school. Now, if we can teach an elementary school of 200 pupils and serve an average of 26 high school pupils on \$1,720 it appears to us that a good school can easily be maintained at Selmer on \$4,000 and yet not be necessary to take the high school advantages from the boys and girls of the other parts of the county.

As we see it, the whole matter from the view point of the writer of the Independent article resolves itself into this proposition: We do not want any part of the county to have the advantage of high school education but us, yet we must insist that the balance of the county pay for it.

We do not feel that it is right to ask us to bear the expense of a centrally located high school here or in part of the county, because it cannot possibly be best for the boys and girls for whom it is intended. It is indeed a poor man's college, and should by all means be kept in reach of the poor man's children. We are for high schools as against one such school and we feel that every unselfish man and woman in this county will see that the more good schools of this character that are maintained in the county, the greater benefit will they be to the masses reached by them.

We trust that in this article we have shown no selfish, narrow spirit, and that we have tried only to show to our people the real advantages derived from the establishing and maintaining of as many high schools as possible. We trust that when our court meets again it will relevy a tax sufficient to carry on the work already begun at the four places mentioned, and that it will not in any manner curtail the activities of our educators. Our boys and girls need these advantages and we should strive to give them every opportunity to prepare for the great responsibilities of life. No man who really loves his home and the interests of his country is ever satisfied with what he is able to do for his children, and he is willing to give them the very best opportunities at his command. We appeal to the people of our county that you insist that the present high schools be allowed to stand and that you demand that every school in the county gets sufficient funds from the taxes you pay to enable it to carry on the great work of preparing the young men and women for the burdens that will fall upon them in the future. We only ask that the principles promulgated by the Great Teacher be applied to everyone interested in this matter.

"As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

Respectfully,

P. L. BASINGER,

Member County High School Board,

Adamsville, Tenn.

We have a fresh supply of Supreme hams and breakfast bacon for those who like good things to eat. Better buy while they are fresh and juicy.

Warren & Co.

A Five Dollar Bill With 95c on the Side

Back from Baltimore and ready with 580 Suits for Men and Young Men to sell at \$5.95. The greatest CLOTHING BARGAINS we ever saw, not a suit in the entire lot that would not be cheap at \$10.00. Two-thirds of them are \$12.50 and \$15.00 Suits, and well worth the money—most of them are suitable for all-year-round wear, while some are only suited for hot weather.

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We also offer several hundred Boys' Suits at exactly 50 cents on the dollar.

75 Dozen Men's Shirts, and Underwear of many kinds, at full third under price.

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Two Thousand Yards of Standard Woolen Dress Goods at a discount of 33 1/3 per cent.—hundreds of yards of Cotton Dress Goods at less than regular Wholesale price.

Women's and Children's Shoes

350 Pairs of Women's \$3.00 and \$3.50 Low Shoes at.....\$1.45 About 250 pairs of Women's Low Shoes at \$1.25, values are \$2.00 and \$2.50.

300 pairs Children's Canvas, and All Solid Leather Pumps, Sandals and Slippers at 75c the pair, regular prices were \$1.25 to \$2.00. 250 Children's and Misses' Wash Dresses at one-half regular price.

Outfitters to Women & Children	CHAS. H. GISH CORINTH, MISS.	Outfitters to Men and Boys
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Important Notice to Land Owners

The McNairy County Land Company is now fully equipped for business with office at former postoffice building. They are preparing a new and complete list of all farms they have for sale. Those who have not given them options should do so at once if they have lands for sale.

The Company has already hundreds of enquiries from prospective buyers from every state almost in the Union. A number of buyers have been here to see the county, and several sales have been made; others are under negotiation. Many letters say that the parties will come soon and all along till fall. Call at Land office or Independent office for particulars.

F. M. HOUGH, Office Manager.

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FINE FISHING; salt water bathing; boating and driving. Ample Hotel Accommodations. For illustrated and descriptive pamphlet, showing exact fares, names of Hotels, etc., apply to Ticket Agents Mobile & Ohio Railroad, or write G. E. ALLEN, District Passenger Agent, Jackson, Tenn. HARVEY E. JONES, Jr., General Agent Passenger Department, Mobile, Ala.

